1: Bowen-Jones et al. K-5 (1955-1958) 1961
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are among the most intensively worked, reflects the lower intensity of pressure on land in Gozo. 241*

Topographically, the Wied ir-Ramla (42) (Fig. 128B) is similar in type to the Wied ta'Marsalforn. The wied channel becomes progressively more sharply incised downstream before opening out into the sandy, bay-head lowland (from which the valley takes its name: *Ramla* = sands). Tributary wied embayments cut into the Coralline plateaus on either side. 311*

Below the mesa scarps there are the usual *ġnien* zones and these give way downhill to a belt of sulla and cereals on the heavier, drier parts of the Blue Clay outcrop. On the eastern slopes lying below the Qortin tan-Nadur (48), recent and Quaternary sands, whose presence is marked by light, ochre-coloured soils, occurs a specialised zone of early tomato and cucurbit production and viticulture (Fig. 127 A and B). This relatively intensive pattern of land use extends from the scarp on to the eastern half of the lower valley floor. On the remainder of the main valley floor, mixed cultivation in which vines and sulla predominate is diversified by relatively large scale potato-growing and some fruit production. The floors of the tributary wieds il-Ġgantija (43) and il-Ħanaq (44) are characterised by particularly intensive viticulture which merges into flanking zones of cereals and sulla. The small mesa of in-Nuffara (45) has similar characteristics to those of the western Coralline fragments.

The remaining part of the Northern Region is closely associated with the village of Nadur. The plateau on which the latter stands (46) is composed of a series of flat-topped promontories (*Qortin*) which run north and north-eastward from the main ridge. These overlook the coast in a series of *Rdum* slopes and are separated by deeply incised wieds. The arrangement of physical features is reflected in the lay-out of settlement and communications. As in the case of Xagħra, a small urban nucleus gives way northwards to strings of farmsteads aligned along roads and tracks. The plateau top thus contrasts with the valleys, which have virtually no permanent settlement. 311* 361 [133]

Land use on the main plateau ridge is semi-urban in character with gardens and stockyards. The *qortin* lands, though physically uniform, differ a good deal from each other in land utilisation. The higher southerly part of the Qortin tan-Nadur (48) is largely waste, but the lower northern bluff is remarkably well cultivated under cereals and sulla with occasional small plots of vegetables and vines. The two promontories of the Qortin il-Kbir (51), on the other hand, form the most extensive areas of karst wasteland in the whole Northern Region of Gozo. Similar contrasts exist between the two rdum areas lying below the *qortin* lands. The Rdum tan-Nadur bears a scatter of small enclosures of vegetables, fruit and minor crops. In this case, cultivation is similar in type, though not in intensity, to that of the Maltese 'undercliff' areas. The Rdum tal-Mistra (53), by contrast, is a rugged wasteland, the greater part of which has never been cultivated. 241* 311*

Piercing the plateau on its northern side are three deep and sheltered valleys: Wied San Blas (50), Wied tal-Mistra (52) and Wied Daħlet Qorrot (54). These are characterised by the virtual absence of the common dry-farmed crops, which are replaced by a remarkably complex inter-cultivation pattern of fruit, vegetables and vines. This is the only area in Gozo completely devoted to intensive market gardening, the products of which are sold in Malta. The growing demand for early produce has resulted in the recent and continuing extension of the area under fruit and has encouraged experiments such as that of strawberry growing. The difficulties of transporting produce out of these deep valleys is offset by the advantage of proximity to the harbour of Mġarr. Thus the *ġnien* type of farming typical of plateau peripheries has here been extended downhill to the valley floors. [133] [489]

IV. THE EASTERN REGION

This comprises the Qala Uplands (55) and flanking coastlands (56) together with the narrow coastal strip which separates the East Central Region from the sea. Structure, topography and land use alike distinguish the Eastern Region from its neighbours. As a result of faulting, the pattern of rock outcrop is often

[TEXT CONTINUES ON P. 281]

3: Buxton D-5 (1920-1921) 1922 EZ6 Malta EZ6

The fortified towns and suburbs, apart from Rabato, form a practically continuous inhabited area. The population, especially in the suburbs, is extremely overcrowded. The country villages are irregularly built along a series of winding lanes, which converge on an open space not infrequently situated in front of the village church. In a corner of such a *piazza* there is usually a café, and it is here that the majority of measurements of the country people were taken, very often as the men came out of Mass on Sunday. Some of the villages have orange gardens, wherever there is sufficient water to spare for irrigation purposes.

Although with modern means of transport it is possible to visit practically the whole island in one day, many of the villages are nearly endogamous, in spite of the absence of geographical boundaries. The men of one village will certainly not seek their wives from a neighbouring village. If they marry outside their own hamlet, it will probably be with a girl from the suburban area. Similarly, many of the town dwellers find wives among the daughters of the country folk. No such distinctions appear to hold in the urban districts. Communications within this latter area are good and cheap, and extensive use of them appears to be made by the whole population.

III.—History.

The ethnological history of the archipelago is not as yet very clear, and further evidence is badly needed. A very interesting cave, usually known as Ghar Dalam, has been excavated by Mr. Despott, to whom I am indebted for permission to examine his finds and his MS. notes. The valley (the Weid Dalam) in which this cave is situated, shows signs of three terraces. The earliest terrace is high above the present level of the stream, which runs on the level of the old second terrace, and the third terrace, on a still lower level, is in most places filled up by *débris*, brought down by the present stream or its immediate predecessor. The second terrace appears to belong to two different periods, as there are in places marks on the rock of undercutting by the swirling of a stream at two very different levels. The river which cut out these terraces must, at least in flood time, have contained a considerable volume of water. The modern stream is, however, even at the wettest time, hardly more than a series of disconnected pools. The Ghar Dalam cave belongs to the earlier part of the second terrace. It contained numerous sherds, mostly Bronze Age. By far the greater part of the cave, however, was filled up with a very large number of bones, the majority of which belonged to a species of pygmy hippopotamus. These bones, and even the teeth, show considerable evidence of attrition by water.

In this fossil bed Mr. Despott claims to have discovered the remains of Neandertal man. All the human remains that have been found consist of very small fragments, and apart from one tooth, there is no evidence to show that these bones really belong to Neandertal man. The tooth is a molar exhibiting unusual characters, but in the absence of X-ray photographs or a section, and comparison with